

March 4, 2021

Dear Representative Abney

I am writing you today to ask you to vote against H-5012 in its current form. I am one of your constituents living in Newport and so you know I am a retired Nursing Home Administrator.

I want to get to the point and not waste your valuable time. There is nothing in this bill that will help improve the lives of our Nursing Home residents period. Currently there is in my experience sufficient regulation in Rhode Island resting with the Department of Health and the Department of Human Services to manage the proper staffing in Nursing Homes. Currently the regulation states Nursing Homes must "maintain sufficient staff to meet the needs of their resident". The Department of Human Services currently has regulations in place to require reporting of financial status each year. Any home not financially sound may be overseen more directly by the state.

Passing this legislation will only further de stabilize a very fragile business in RI. The state for many years has short funded nursing homes in an attempt to meet state wide budget issues. Requiring a set number of nursing hours each day and tacking on a very draconian penalty will destroy the quality of care currently delivered.

I am sure you are aware the lack of available people entering the field of health care and particularly C.N.A.'s. The NH industry has worked very hard at developing training programs and supporting the training of new C.N.A. students. The issue again is the inability of Nursing Homes to compete with the wages these individuals should be paid to do this work.

I would ask that you develop through committee a thoughtful approach to recruiting and training the sufficient personnel and create an adequate reimbursement focused on labor costs before you consider this type of damaging legislation. I am available at any time to discuss this further and be part of the long term solution. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,

Hugh J. Hall